GUIDE TO THE MR13 FELLAHIN FILE

[The MR13 Fellahin file is concerned with the Arabic-speaking Egyptian agriculturalists living along the Nile. The file contains nine sources, all of which are in English. Most of the material dates from the first half of the twentieth century, with some coming from the second half of the nineteenth century. Therefore, the file covers a time span of about 75 years. The areas in which these Fellahin live are called Upper Egypt (i.e., the South, Aswan Province, etc.), Middle Egypt, and Lower Egypt (i.e., the North, the Nile Delta, etc.). There is some local variation between the regions.

The basic sources in the file are 1: Ammar, which analyzes the social and psychological aspects of education in Silwa, a village in Aswan Province where Ammar grew up; 2: Blackman, a general ethnography of the Upper Egyptian Fellahin with very detailed and precise information; and 3: Ayrout, by a Syrian Catholic priest, which is a study of ethos and psychology in Lower and Middle Egypt. In addition, 4: Walker is a description of folk medicinal practices in the late 19th century; 8: Schaefer is a description and analysis of peasant songs, and 9: Klunzinger is a description of religious and secular festivals and ceremonies in Upper Egypt by a nineteenth century physician.

The MR13 Fellahin file contains a good deal of cultural data and should be sufficient for must research purposes. Researchers should be aware of the time foci involved, and also of the possibility of regional variation in the culture. Most of the sources are concerned with the Fellahin of Upper Egypt. The file was processed between 1962 and 1964 and contains no special marking decisions.]